

**VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS)**  
**PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How many residents are in the program?**

**A:** The program has one (1) post-graduate year two (PGY2) ambulatory care pharmacy resident. There are also two (2) post-graduate year one (PGY1) pharmacy residents.

**Q: How is the PGY2 resident selected for your program?**

**A:** Resident selection involves an application process and an onsite interview. All applications by are reviewed by a group including at least the residency program director, associate chief of clinical pharmacy operations, and the current PGY2 pharmacy resident. We review letter of intent, curriculum Vitae, PhORCAS standardized reference forms, and transcripts. The group identifies top candidates that we would like to bring in for an onsite interview. Candidates will be notified of interview status no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>. Interviews are generally held in February through early March. During the interview, we try to get to know the applicant and assess his/her communication skills, interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills, professional goals, and whether or not he/she is a good fit for our program. As an ASHP-accredited program, participation in the National Matching Program is mandatory. A formalized, objective, and competitive selection process is utilized for ranking applicants. Our residency program agrees that no person will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information.

**Q: What does the onsite interview include?**

**A:** The onsite interview is generally a half-day (8:30am-1pm). Applicants will receive a tour of the Castle Point campus, as well as elective tours of the Port Jervis and/or Monticello rural health Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) [weather dependent]. Typically interviews are with the residency program director, associate chief of clinical pharmacy operations, available clinical pharmacy specialists/preceptors, and our current PGY2 pharmacy resident. Applicants meet with multiple people and sit in on various patient encounters/clinics, so they can determine if the residency and the VA HVHCS is a good fit for them as well. The goal of the interview is for the applicant and the program to assess fit and determine if it is a good match. Applicants are required to give a formal 15 minute presentation. You may also be expected to work up an ambulatory care related therapeutic topic/case, although clinical references are provided and the discussion is informal.

**Q: What transcripts are required when applying?**

**A:** College of pharmacy only.

**Q: If matched, are there other requirements that must be met (i.e. physical exam, licensure)?**

**A:** Candidates matched to our program must meet all requirements for federal employment. Appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of a physical exam, including negative drug test. Prior to entry into the residency program, the PGY2 pharmacy resident is expected to have obtained pharmacist licensure (*in any state*).

**Q: How is the PGY2 resident's year organized?**

**A:** The first several weeks of residency are spent in orientation with introduction to various computer programs, ASHP residency accreditation standards, clinical pharmacy operations, pharmacy staffing, and exposure to the pharmacy-managed primary care and anticoagulation clinics. During this timeframe, the PGY2 resident will meet individually with the residency program director to plan the year's schedule. Structurally, the residency is conducted as a longitudinal clinic experience carried out at the main campuses (primarily Castle Point) and 2-3 CBOCs. The PGY2 resident is simultaneously expected to prioritize and work on the ongoing clinical, didactic, administrative, and project activities.

**Q: Are there any opportunities for teaching?**

**A:** A variety of teaching and educational opportunities are offered throughout the residency year, focusing on patient education, staff education, as well as APPE pharmacy student/PGY1 pharmacy resident preceptorship. The PGY2 resident helps promote public health by developing patient education programs on safe and effective medication use and other public health-related topics, such as tobacco cessation, immunizations, and healthy nutrition. Patient education may occur in the clinical setting, informal didactic setting (i.e. diabetes, COPD, and weight loss group classes), or at other venues such as health fairs. In addition, the PGY2 resident is expected to preparing and deliver educational/training sessions of various types to health care colleagues (i.e. drug information, journal clubs, case presentations, pharmacy in-services, quarterly newsletters, academic detailing, etc.). The PGY2 resident will also serve as a co-preceptor for APPE pharmacy students from affiliated schools of pharmacy, as well as serve as a mentor (chief resident) to our PGY1 pharmacy residents. Finally, the residency program offers an elective Teaching & Learning certificate program through the University of Connecticut.

**Q: Does the PGY2 resident receive financial support to attend professional meetings?**

**A:** Financial support has traditionally been available for travel to national/regional meetings such as ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the Eastern States Pharmacy Residents & Preceptors Conference. However, due financial constraints, funding cannot be 100% guaranteed.

**Q: Does the PGY2 resident have library privileges?**

**A:** The PGY2 resident will have access to the VA HVHCS onsite library, VISN 3 Online Digital Library (which offers access to various medical and pharmacy journals), Micromedex, Up-to-date, and various other clinical resources.

**Q: Does the PGY2 resident have access to the Internet and email?**

**A:** The PGY2 resident will have his/her own desk and computer in a shared resident/pharmacist workspace, and will have access to both internet and email.

**Q: Where does the PGY2 resident park?**

**A:** Free onsite parking is available at the main campuses and CBOCs.



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